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University of Oxford
New Bodleian Library Project

Planning and Listed Building
Consent Applications

Design and Access Statement

March 2010



University of Oxford
New Bodleian Library Project

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University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

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Illustrative elevated view of the redeveloped New Bodleian Library from the vantage of the Sheldonian Theatre

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Accompanying Documents

Please cross refer to the following documents

Planning Statement Turnberry Consulting

Heritage Impact Assessment Purcell Miller Tritton

Structures, Construction and Geotechnical Statement

Pell Frischmann

Sustainability Statement Hurley Palmer Flatt

Noise Impact Assessment Sandy Brown Associates

Transport Assessment Pell Frischmann

University of Oxford
New Bodleian Library Project



Illustrative view of proposed Broad Street frontage

1.0 Introduction



Illustrative view of proposed central entrance hall

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

1.0 Introduction

This Design and Access Statement report has been prepared to support Planning and Listed Buildings Consent applications for the refurbishment and redevelopment of the Grade II Listed New Bodleian Library building for the Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford

This application submission represents the culmination of the design development carried out by the Bodleian Libraries, the University of Oxford, and the Design Team, led by Wilkinson Eyre Architects, over the last three years. During this period the design development work has largely focussed on the development of the Libraries' brief within the 'building design', which, in a Grade II Listed building with such significant constraints, are inextricably linked and complex. Design development has progressed to a level of detail where the architectural, structural and services coordination is integrated into the design intent of the new build elements, the analysis of the existing constraints, and the original built heritage fabric.

The following report provides an outline of the background and the key objectives of the project, followed by an analysis of the site and the existing building. The majority of the report then concentrates on a description of the proposals. This report should be read alongside the drawings.

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

2.1 The Bodleian Library

The Bodleian Libraries are the foremost among the University's libraries. The Bodleian is entitled to receive a free copy of every book, periodical, and newspaper published in Britain as one of the six libraries accorded legal deposit status in British legislation, and acquires over 300,000 items each year. At present its collections of printed books, manuscripts, archives, maps and music occupy over 188 km (117 miles).

The central Bodleian site comprises the Old Bodleian building, the New Bodleian, the Clarendon Building, and the Radcliffe Camera.

The Bodleian Libraries' unique collections are of inestimable value to international research as well as to world culture. They require the best possible facilities, so that they may be preserved for future generations and made accessible for the international community of scholars and students to use in their research and learning, and for the University to share with the general public.

The University of Oxford has therefore embarked on an ambitious period of renewal of its facilities for the safeguarding of, and provision of high-quality access to, its collections and services. The refurbishment of the New Bodleian building is at the heart of this strategy, as it is focussed on the University's outstanding Special Collections.

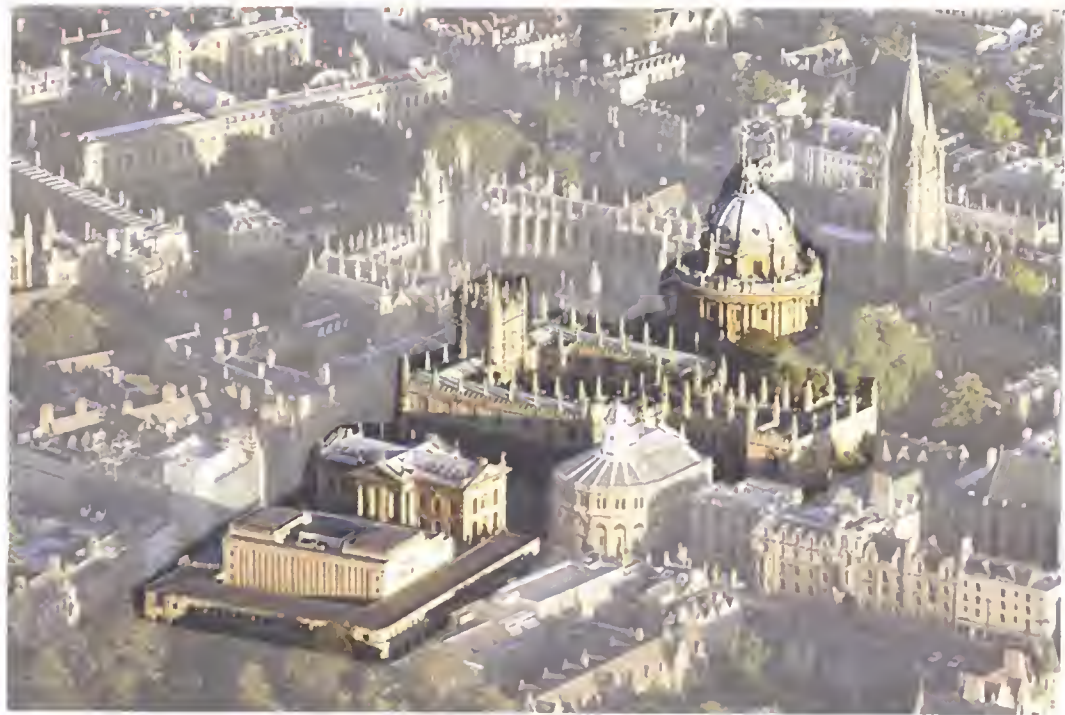
2.2 New Bodleian

The project at the heart of this scheme is the refurbishment of the Grade II Listed New Bodleian Library. The construction of a new modern book depository at Swindon now enables the University of Oxford to refurbish and upgrade this building, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in the 1930s and completed in 1940 to deal with major problems with the building's infrastructure, and to modernise its facilities. As such the New Bodleian project aims to provide the University with a leading research facility based on the University's unrivalled Special Collections, to equal the best available anywhere in the world.

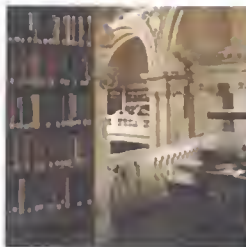
The project has also been designed to ensure that the Scott building can be modernised in a way that preserves the historic character of the building and that allows the best features of Scott's design to be seen in their best light.

The project will ensure that the investment made by the University and the many generous donors who have built the Library's special collections over the centuries can be properly protected, and that scholars in the future can be sure that these collections can be used in facilities that meet their requirements. The project will also enable the general public – the citizens of Oxford and the many visitors to the city – to appreciate the treasures of world culture and learning that the University has the privilege and responsibility of safeguarding.

2.0 Background Information



Aerial view with Central Bodleian buildings highlighted



Interior of Radcliffe Camera



The Radcliffe Camera from St Mary's Church



The New Bodleian from the steps of the Clarendon Building



Interior of the Stacks End of the Duke Humfrey's Library

2.0 Background Information



Original Sir Giles Gilbert Scott drawing



Detail of the circular medallion above the doorway

Segmental pediment with bust of Thomas Bodley

2.3 History of the New Bodleian

In 1925 the then Librarian of the Bodleian, Dr Arthur Ernest Cowley, informed the University that the Library would run out of space in ten years' time and began to investigate options for dealing with this problem. In providing a solution, a key issue was that the University did not wish to lose the Bodleian's association with its beautiful buildings in central Oxford: the Old Schools and Radcliffe Camera. Radical alterations to the existing buildings were considered inappropriate, and it was therefore decided that the construction of a new building, within the city centre, which could easily accommodate the growth of the library's collections, was the best course of action.

In 1926, the Rockefeller Foundation agreed to provide three-fifths of the cost of a new library, provided that the University would contribute the remainder. This was the catalyst for the creation of a Commission, under Sir Henry Miers, which was to visit modern University libraries in Europe and America and to report on these with the intent of informing designs for the new Library. In a report published in 1931, the Library Commission determined that the best course of action would be to abandon thoughts of a library and instead build a book-stack. The site chosen was opposite the Clarendon Building, on the north of Broad Street.

Following the appointment of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott as architect in June 1934, it was decided that the new building on the Broad Street site would be a book store and library extension capable of holding approximately 5,000,000 books, which would be connected to the Old Bodleian via a mechanical conveyor belt and pneumatic tube system.

The New Bodleian Library is described as being, 'an experiment in working a new library building into an old historic framework'.¹ This is clear in the way that variable influences considered by Gilbert Scott combine to create a unique style which is an Art Deco / Art Moderne take on Classical Revivalism. The use of materials, styles, architectural features, and design elements form a modern building in keeping with the style of its time, though touched rather heavily by the inspiration of surrounding buildings ranging from medieval timber frames to the ornate Classical Revivalism of the Sheldonian Theatre and Clarendon Building. 'The elevations are designed with due respect to the traditions that produced the surrounding old buildings, but no attempt has been made to ignore modern tendencies'.²

¹ Edmund Craster, 'The Bodleian Library Extension Scheme, 1941

² The Architect and Building News, 30 August 1940

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

2.4 The Bodleian Libraries Academic and Estates Strategy

The Bodleian Libraries make up a highly distributed library system with over 30 sites ranging from the Health Care Libraries based around the John Radcliffe Hospital and other teaching hospitals to the Humanities libraries in central Oxford.

The current Library strategy aims to

- Increase direct access to high-demand items in the collections
- Improve online access to materials by providing access to digital runs of journals
- Enhance user services through innovation
- Improve the management of collections
- Provide a secure location for high-value collections
- Advance a coordinated estates programme

a) High-density book storage facility in South Marston - Completion of the new facility is due in September 2010. Like other comparable repositories, such as Harvard's Depository, the storage facility will offer twice daily deliveries on weekdays with additional service if demand warrants.

b) New Bodleian Library redevelopment - The subject of this Planning and Listed Buildings Consent Application.

c) Humanities Library - The first phase of the plans for the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter will see the integration of the English, History, Philosophy and Theology faculty libraries into a single library.

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

2.5 Appreciation of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's architecture is well known for its fusion of tradition with modernity by the application of historic styles to industrial structures such as those for Battersea and Bankside power stations in London, Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, and the K2 telephone kiosks.

As well as these landmark commissions, Scott designed many churches throughout his career, and oversaw extensive rebuilding of elements of the Houses of Commons following wartime bombing.

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott was president of the RIBA during its centenary year in 1933. In his inaugural address Scott criticised both the diehard traditionalist and the diehard modernist, calling for a 'middle line' to adopt new methods of construction while seeking to always place the humanistic element of architecture.

Scott was a prolific architect with a wide range of projects which included several other Oxford commissions in addition to the New Bodleian. Between 1928 and 1931 Scott continued the north range of the Longwall Quadrangle at Magdalen College, and also converted the School Hall into the College's Library. At Lady Margaret Hall in 1932 Scott designed a number of neo-classical college buildings and a chapel on the site.

The other most notable Oxford commission was Hartland House for St Anne's College, which was contemporary to the design of the New Bodleian Library. Hartland House shares many similar design characteristics to that of the New Bodleian, including the use of the same stone from the same quarries.

For the redevelopment of the New Bodleian, the strategy is to work with, rather than against, Scott's design. There are a number of key features which are both typical of Scott and also give the building its specific mid-twentieth century character. The vertical strips of linear glazing are architectural features seen on many of Scott's buildings, including Bankside and Battersea power stations. At the New Bodleian Scott uses a series of extended verticals to break the line of the horizontal, thus developing the use of verticality to adapt to the Oxford context.

While this building should be a more uplifting space than simply a 'machine' for storing books, it is an intention that any proposal should be a truthful and pragmatic solution to the re-adaptation of Scott's design.

2.0 Background Information



Bankside Power Station, Two Moten



Telephone Box



Cambridge University Library



Battersea Power Station



Hartland House, St Anne's College, Oxford

2.0 Background Information

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project



The view of the Central Bodleian buildings from the North



New Bodleian: 1945's view of the north side of stack



Charles Gilbert Scott

2.6 Conservation Statement

A Conservation Plan for The Bodleian Library Oxford was compiled by THT Cultural Heritage in December 2000. This refers to the Bodleian complex as a whole. Within its Conservation Policies this document recommends, 'When viable and affordable, to invest in new technology to improve the functioning of the New Library and the accessibility of its collections to readers'. This document does not give any recommendations of any particular architectural detail.

A specific New Bodleian Library Conservation Statement was completed by Purcell Miller Tritton in October 2006, which has subsequently been adopted and approved by Oxford City Council and English Heritage.

This Conservation Statement is an independent document which was written in isolation without any detailed knowledge of the concurrent evolving Client Brief, and subsequent design proposals.

The design of the building responds to the project's key drivers and objectives. The Conservation Statement has informed this process and in some instances identifies where agreement about the management or treatment of change should be reached.

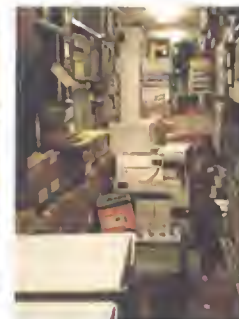
The Conservation Statement identifies recommendations to ensure that the redevelopment of the Library conserves the aesthetic and architectural character of the building. These recommendations have been fully taken into account in the preparation of the proposals for which the University is seeking permission.

The Conservation Statement is an important point of reference for the Project Team in appraising the impacts of proposed changes to the building.

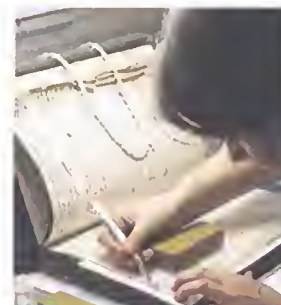
3.0 Brief and Objectives



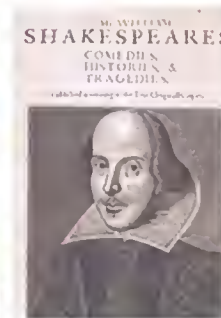
Collection storage conditions



Academic and research facilities



Bodleian Library Collections



Shakespeare First Folio 1616



Percy Bysshe Shelley portrait, mid 19th century, after the portrait by Arthur Colver

Project Objectives

1. SAFEGUARDING THE COLLECTIONS

2. MODERNISING RESEARCH FACILITIES

3. PROMOTING THE COLLECTIONS FOR WIDER UNDERSTANDING

3.1. Safeguarding the Collections

As a fundamental objective of the scheme, it is of paramount importance that the refurbished scheme meets the requirements of the following:

- British Standard 5454: 2000 Recommendations for the storage and exhibition of archival documents,
- The National Archives Standard for Record Repositories First edition, 2004.

The existing building currently fails to meet these requirements due to the following constraints:

- **Storage** Currently cramped and unsafe conditions for the storage of valuable materials, as well as a reduced opportunity to acquire collections
- **Environment** The Library currently fails to meet the temperature and humidity requirements of BS 5454 for storing library and archival materials
- **Fire safety** The Library has no means of compartmentation or fire suppression to limit the spread of fire and there is 'wholly' inadequate fire protection to the multi-level book stack structure.
- **Security** The last decade has seen some high-profile thefts from the Bodleian. Improved security required at storage, consultation, and display locations

This project has as a key objective to bring the conditions for storage up to contemporary standards. This represents a major investment, and the Library will be able to share the benefits of these new facilities with college libraries, department and Faculty libraries and the University Archives, a number of which currently entrust their collections to the Bodleian.

3.2. Modernising Research Facilities

The Bodleian Library has always sought to develop high quality services for its users. The constraints of the existing buildings have meant that the Library has been unable to seize opportunities to provide new research facilities or to upgrade and renew existing ones. The following improvements are proposed:

- **Reading rooms** A suite of high quality new and refurbished reading rooms is planned to increase the capacity and improve facilities for researchers directly consulting collections
- **Seminar rooms** A suite of seminar rooms is planned to provide secure 'hands-on' teaching, master-classes, and public seminars using special collections materials
- **Visiting Scholars** The Library intends to develop its academic programmes by introducing a new Visiting Scholars Centre. Scholars will work on the Library's collections, whilst contributing to the research culture of the University through graduate master-classes, advising curatorial staff, curating exhibitions, and delivering public lectures and workshops
- **Space** The existing facilities are inadequate in terms of the needs of the modern Conservator and Curator, and therefore improved facilities for staff are proposed.
- **Digital media centre** The New Bodleian project will deliver a state-of-the-art facility for supporting digital scholarship

3.3. Promoting the Collections for Wider Understanding

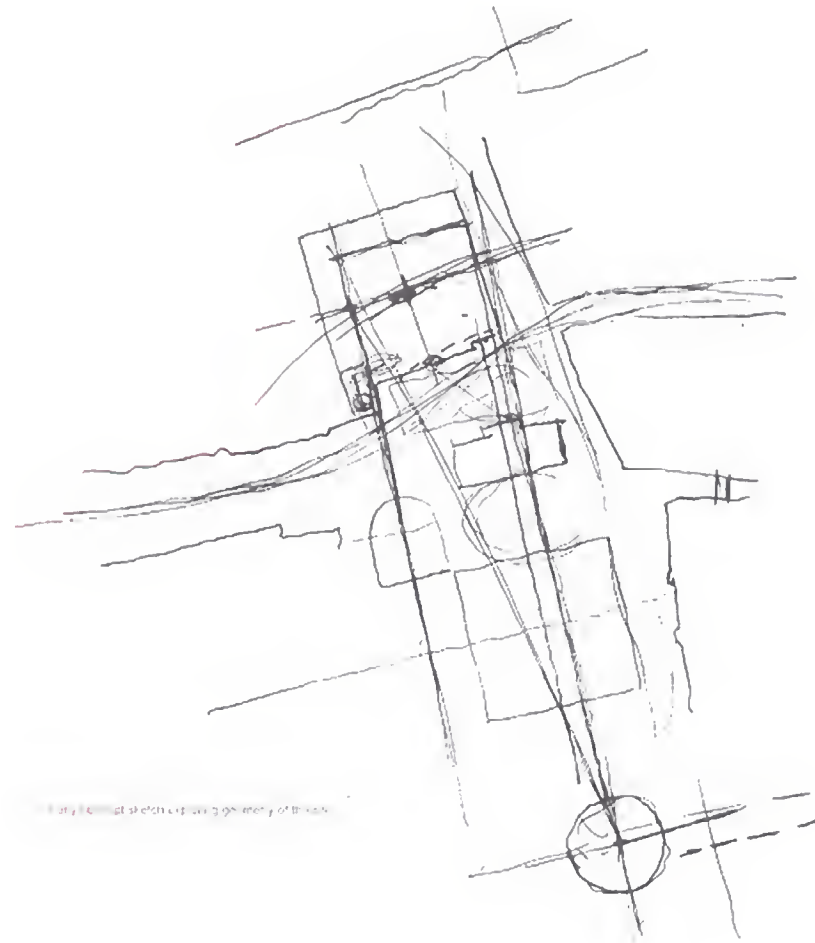
By opening access to the New Bodleian beyond the academic community, the public will be given the opportunity to understand, enjoy and appreciate why, in this digital age, a physical library is still vitally important to our heritage. The New Bodleian project will achieve these aims through

- **Exhibitions.** The New Library has been planned to increase space for exhibitions and to mount permanent and temporary exhibitions, within facilities that meet the highest current standards
- **Public engagement.** The Exhibition galleries, the Seminar Suite and other facilities, will provide new opportunities for developing programmes of engagement aimed at general public, local community groups, school children, lifelong learners and others
- **Architecture of the building.** The building will be opened up both conceptually and physically, allowing the purpose and function of a great research library to be transparent.
- **Café.** Café facilities are planned that would be available for Library staff, researchers and the general public



University of Oxford
New Bodleian Library Project

4.0 Site Analysis

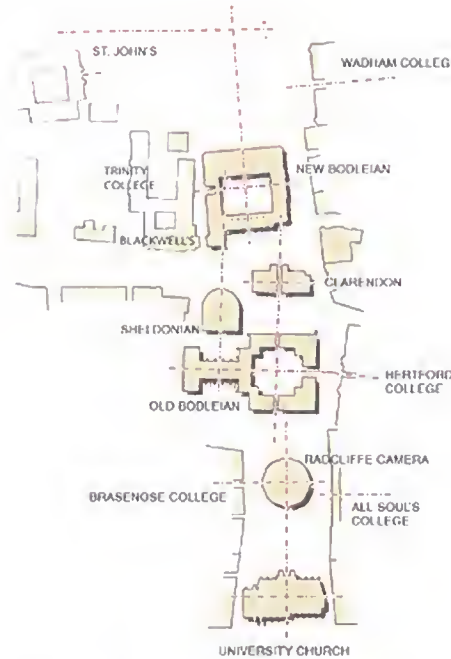


4.0 Site Analysis

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project



View from the Clarendon Building to the New Bodleian



Context of surrounding context

4.1 Central Oxford and Broad Street

The New Bodleian Library is Grade II listed, and is a highly recognisable feature of the Oxford cityscape given its prominent location on the corner of Broad Street and Parks Road. Broad Street is one of the most predominant streets in Oxford City Centre and is at the heart of the University. Parks Road is a direct link between the city centre and the University Parks and Science Area, making the corner of these two major roads an important junction. The New Bodleian is adjacent to Trinity Gardens to the north, and the Grade II listed Blackwell Bookshop to the west.

It is notable that the design of the building was intended to relate to its surroundings. The Broad Street entrance, for example, was designed to create an axial vista across Broad Street, through the archways of the Clarendon Building and the Old Bodleian to the Radcliffe Camera. The architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner described 'the area by the Radcliffe Camera and the Bodleian is unique in the world...'.³ The use of Bladon limestone and Classical motifs on the façades also assist in relating the New Bodleian with the immediate surroundings.

The building forms a physical part of the group of significant historic buildings at the east end of Broad Street. The curve, shape and changing width of Broad Street follows the line of the old city wall, moving from the commercialism of the High Street to the historic academic heart of Oxford and the Bodleian Libraries complex, as such it is a major thoroughfare for the citizens of Oxford, academics, students and tourists.

The architectural and historic significance of the centre of Oxford easily warrants its designation as a Conservation Area. This Central Conservation Area is the largest and most significant in Oxford. The primary features of the Conservation Area are the collection of spires and towers of the main university buildings and churches - which create the famous pinnacled skyline, its important historic architecture and its association with the university.

³ "The Buildings of England: Oxfordshire", Sir Nikolaus Pevsner



Radcliffe Camera



Old Bodleian Tower of the Five Orders



The Sheldonian Theatre

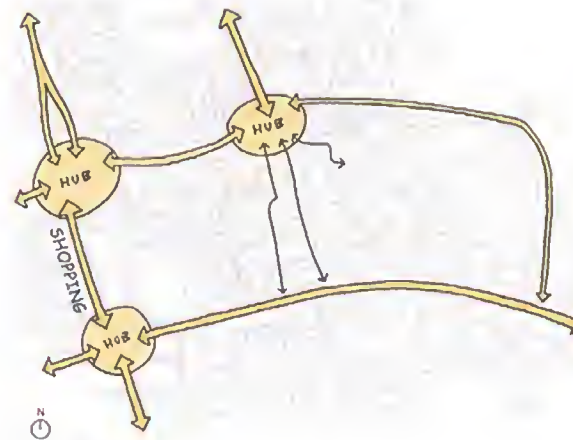


The Clarendon Building

4.0 Site Analysis



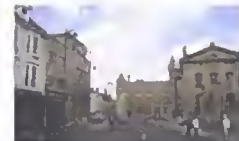
Model of links leading to the larger space of Broad Street



Key street and squares



Filmed routes



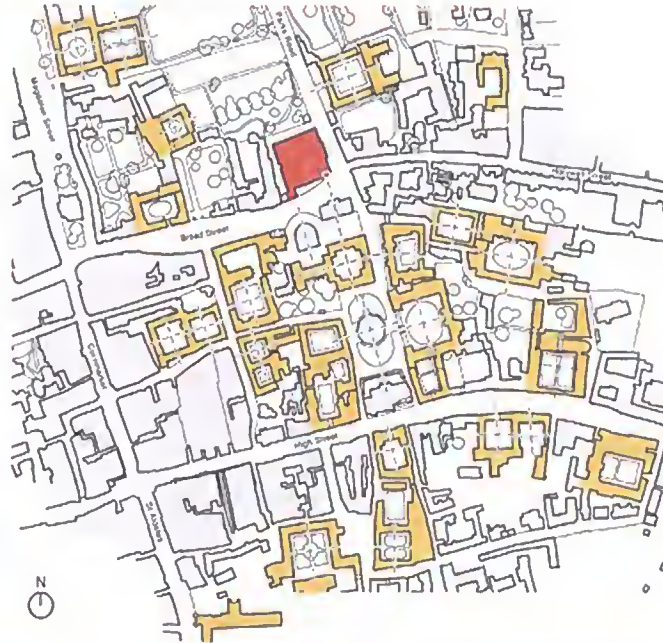
Key streets

4.0 Site Analysis

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project



Quadrangles



Existing view of the New Bodleian



Extended Verdicts

4.2 Understanding the Site, the Building and its Context

In architectural and urban design terms, this project seeks a solution which will solve problems related to both the external perception, cultural identity and the internal functioning of the New Bodleian Library. Studies of the surrounding cityscape show a fine urban grain of quadrangles and courtyards, passages and alleys, creating a 'filter' through which pedestrians pass as they permeate the academic core of Oxford.

This informal network is counter-pointed by a certain formality in the sequence of spaces between Broad Street and the High Street, with its unresolved axes suggesting links through to the threshold of the New Bodleian. One of the key aims when analysing the surroundings of the New Bodleian has been to establish a means to connect the building more closely back into its immediate context, creating an improved clarity and logic in the pedestrian approach. There is an opportunity (offered by the more 'open' nature of the building brief) to significantly improve the eastern end of Broad Street and in particular the setting for the Clarendon Building and the Sheldonian Theatre, at street level. Within the setting of the New Bodleian, there is also the possibility of easing the transition between this dense urban character and the looser character of the city grain, as the north side of Broad Street (with the exception of Blackwell's and the White Horse pub) is completely closed off to the general public.

Internally, the provision of upgraded book stacks and an improvement of operational aspects is vital. A new structure for the central book stack allows the appropriate subdivision and fire protection - and the introduction of a diagrammatically simpler pattern of movement to enable the retrieval and arrival of its contents to be managed more closely.

There is an aspiration to create a 'specialness' to the spaces and reading rooms surrounding the stack, both in their architectural aesthetic and environmental control, and to achieve this through the rejuvenation and re-appreciation of Scott's original design.

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

4.0 Site Analysis

4.3 Approaches to the Building

4.3.1 The Western Approach

Approaching the building from the west end of Broad Street, the expanse of Broad Street, Trinity College, the Clarendon building and Sheldonian Theatre are in the foreground. The upper stack and the 1960s Indian Institute extension are clearly visible in the back ground of this view

As one gets closer, the open space in front of the Clarendon building and the original Indian Institute building, and the set back of the New Bodleian façade, becomes evident, and spatially steps back to suggest the continuation of Broad Street onto Holywell Street beyond the crossroads. The south-west annexe of the building is on the historic building line of Broad Street and mediates in massing terms, between the smaller scale of Broad Street and the larger volumes needed to contain the book stacks

On reaching the east end of Broad Street, the New Bodleian's existing plinth sterilises this space and forms a barrier which does nothing to contribute to the public realm space between the New Bodleian and the Clarendon opposite

Architecturally the building is rather unwelcoming on this frontage



Existing views from broad street



4.0 Site Analysis



View from corner of Cattle Street and New College Lane



University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

4.3.2 The Southern Approach

The sequence of spaces from the south to the north, and in particular from the High Street through to the east end of Broad Street is remarkable in its architectural heritage and quality.

At its eastern end, Broad Street is the climax of the southern approach from St Mary's, through Radcliffe Square and the Old Schools Quadrangle to the Clarendon and Sheldonian buildings.

The New Bodleian is part of this sequence of spaces, and is also at the important 'hub' between Broad Street, Parks Road, Holywell Street and Cattle Street. The treatment of the New Bodleian should pay due cognisance of this spatial relationship, where all buildings in view are of the same material.

1. The view from the south, between High Street and Radcliffe Square.

2. View from New College Lane.

3. View from the corner of Cattle Street and New College Lane.

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

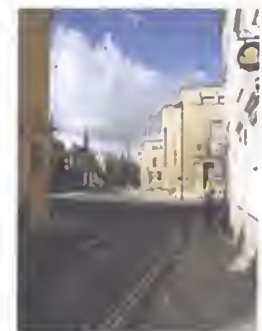
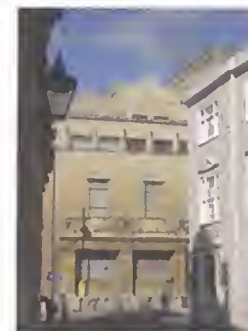
4.0 Site Analysis

4.3.3 The Eastern Approach

The gentle curve of Holywell Street traces the historical building line to the north of, and outside of the old city wall. This gentle curve links up with the north side of Broad Street which continues this curve.

As one moves from east to west along the curving Holywell Street, the relationship with the New Bodleian changes. From a distance the ground and first floors of the building are dominant and act as a visual barrier which terminates the view; the upper storeys set back slightly, through this effect is compromised by the presence of the Indian Institute extension later addition.

As one gets closer to the corner of Holywell Street, Parks Road and Broad Street, the relationship with Broad Street opens up and becomes apparent.



Existing views along Holywell Street

4.0 Site Analysis



Existing views from Parks Road



University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

4.3.4 The Northern Approach

The views of the approach from north to south along Parks Road show the relationship of the New Bodleian Library with Trinity Gardens and Wadham College, and the Clarendon building in the distance.

The east facade of the New Bodleian does not follow the historical building line and is not parallel to the older buildings on the west side of Parks Road. This alignment forms the vista of the west side of the Clarendon, the spires of the Old Bodleian tower and the dome of the Radcliffe Camera.

The north facade of the original upper stack tower is visible, and the existing massing of the building is clearly defined. Several non original elements project above the north parapet.

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

4.0 Site Analysis

4.4 Analysis of Original Drawings and South Facade

The existing 'wedge shaped' plinth in front of the south facade stenilises the space in front of the New Bodleian

An original Scott section drawing dated April 1936 and a perspective drawing of the same time show that the existing window in the south-west corner of the ground floor was originally proposed as a door, and that the existing line of the plinth was originally proposed as a low wall. This door is adjacent to the 'Canteen Room'. Therefore, it can be surmised that it was originally Scott's intention to create an external private space for librarians (and possibly scholars) where the existing plinth is located

The section drawing dated February 1937 shows this door changed to a window and that the walled external space changed to a plinth.

The chronology of the building around this time was as follows

- 10 June 1935 - Instructions to the Architect approved.
- 1936 - Tenders and Appointments for Various Contractors.
- 17 December 1936 - Roneo appointed contractors for bookstack shelving
- December 1936 - Construction started.
- 25 June 1937 - Foundation stone laid by Queen Mary

This piece of analysis implies that Scott originally intended the space in front of the Broad Street facade to be a 'private' external space which takes advantage of the south facing aspect and which had the potential to be socialised by the users of the library



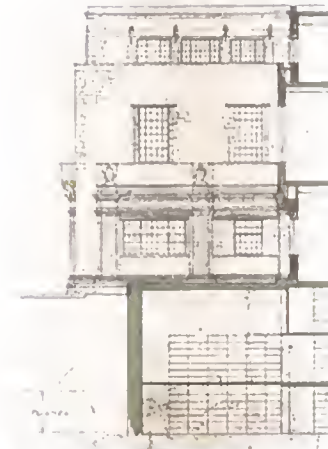
Archival Photograph circa 1946. Note: Pavement width on south-east corner and Pairs Road



Original Perspective circa 1935-36. Note: Door in south-west corner



Original Section April 1936. Door and wall



Original Section February 1937. Window and plinth

4.0 Site Analysis



Archive photograph circa 1911 - view from Bodleian Theatre Square



Circa 1935 Approximate outline of the pre-1936 buildings (red) and pavement line (green) with the foot-print of the New Bodleian building superimposed over



Circa 1946 New Bodleian building at time of completion with the 'original as-built' pavement line (green)
Note The external space on the south-east corner and Parks Road is significantly wider than existing



2010 The original pavement lines (green) have changed to the existing current pavement layouts (blue).

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

4.5 Analysis of the Historical Building Footprints

A number of historic buildings on Broad Street and Parks Road, which belonged to the University, were demolished to make way for the building of the New Bodleian Library in 1936. Nos. 35 - 47 Broad Street were a row of 13 terrace houses dating from the first half of the seventeenth century. On Parks Road, Nos. 2-4 were demolished, along with St. Stephen's House and Ripon Hall.

The overlay of the New Bodleian building onto the approximate outline of the demolished buildings shows that the previous building frontages not only aligned with the Blackwell's frontage, but that this street frontage continued further east towards Holywell Street, and the space at the southern end of Parks Road was originally a lot narrower than it is now.

The view down Parks Road from the north would have been very different pre-1936, as it would not have been possible to see the Clarendon Building until the junction with Broad Street.

Therefore, it would appear that Scott's orthogonal building design served not only the functional aspect of efficient book storage, but also implied that the building was set back from the original Parks Road pavement line, which therefore spatially opened up the south end of Parks Road and formed a new view of the Clarendon building.

In effect when Scott designed the building, the pavement line on the east and south-east corner of the building was considerably wider than it is now, which would have created much more of a spatially coherent relationship between external space, the Broad Street entrance door and the Parks Road entrance. This goes some way to explaining the logic as to why the primary entrance was located on the east side of the building, and the ceremonial entrance on the south.

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

5.1 Existing Building

The Grade II Listed New Bodleian building is a large and complex structure comprising the following features

- 11 levels of book-stack, three of which are underground. The footprint of the basement book-stack extends beyond the ground floor building line
- Each of these book-stack levels have either an 8 ft or a 7 ft 6 in floor to floor height in order to maximise book storage.
- All book-stack levels are linked by a book conveyor system which runs through the building and links up to several other Central Bodleian buildings via a basement tunnel
- Three levels of perimeter accommodation (Ground, First and Second Floors) have taller floor to floor heights to house offices and reading rooms. These are arranged around six levels of the above ground central book-stack
- A further two levels of book-stack and plant-room accommodation extend above the perimeter accommodation, and appear as a book-stack tower in the centre of the building
- From street level the overall composition of building conceals its significant mass by appearing as a two storey frontage with a series of set-backs, rather like a ziggurat
- In the 1960s an extension (the Indian Institute extension) was built in front of the south façade of the original book-stack tower
- The building is one of the earliest and best preserved examples of the use of aluminium framed windows
- Several internal spaces of special heritage interest are noted in the Listing document, including the Parks Road Entrance lobby, East Corridor, 1st floor North Reading Room and adjacent Catalogue Gallery, together with the four perimeter stairwells
- Original stonework to the external façades of the building consists of local Bladon and Clipsham stone, the articulation of which is typical of Oxford buildings contemporary to the New Bodleian

5.0 Existing Building Analysis

5.2 Existing Building Constraints

Notwithstanding the objectives of the Bodleian's library strategy, the New Bodleian Library is in urgent need of upgrading to modern standards appropriate for one of the largest and most important depositories of historical and legal deposit materials in the world

Following several Scott trips to various American Archives, both for the New Bodleian and also previously for Scott's Cambridge University Library, there is no doubt that the density and integrated structure and shelving of the 'book-stack' was influenced by several North American library stacks built around that time. The detailed design of the 'stack' itself in both the New Bodleian and at Cambridge was carried out by Roneo Ltd

The existing 11 storey central book-stacks are a very dense three-dimensional grid of steel columns, steel beams and thin concrete slabs

5.2.1 Fire Safety, Storage and Access

The existing floor slabs do not provide adequate fire separation between floors, according to the relevant British Standards. Furthermore the soffits of the steel beams are fully exposed

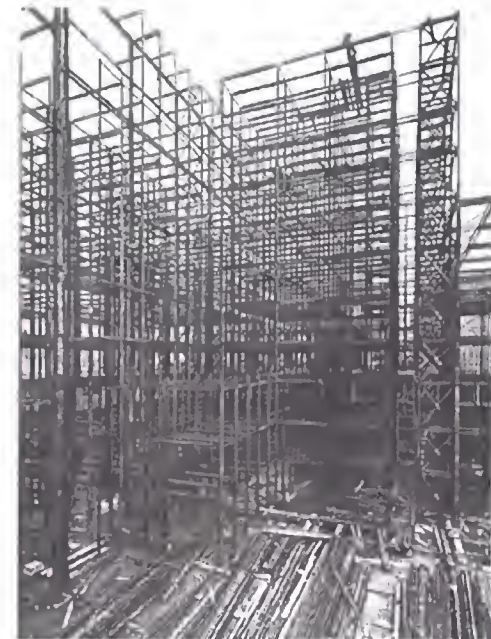
None of the existing steel columns are fire-protected, and a significant number of the steels are back-to-back sections with a continuous open gap between floors, which presents a further risk of fire and smoke spread between floors

The building has no provision for the suppression of fire, introducing a fire suppression system into the structure as it currently exists is not possible, owing to the nature of the low ceiling heights and integrated structure and shelving

In summary the existing building has:

- No fire protection to any of the existing stack structure
- No means of preventing a fire from spreading.
- No effective means of suppressing a fire.

Effectively the existing condition is one very large single compartment, which presents an obvious risk of fire spread



Archive photograph of steel frame constructed



Archive photograph of stack structure prior to shelving installation



Archive photograph of stack structure during shelving installation

5.0 Existing Building Analysis

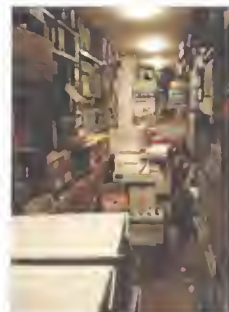
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Existing steel frame detail



Existing plant room



Example of existing cramped storage corridors

BS 5454 2000 Recommendations for the storage and exhibition of archival documents, requires *"The elements of structure of the repository should be designed to provide 4 hours of fire resistance against a fire occurring either inside the repository, in any adjacent compartment of the building or nearby"*

Incremental improvements have been made where possible but there is a limit to what can be achieved without fundamental redevelopment and changes.

5.2.2 Environmental Control

The New Bodleian was not designed with the infrastructure necessary for modern climate control archival standards. In the 1980s three of the eleven floors were retro-fitted with a climate control system. This plant is unable to provide stable, moderate conditions and suffers from frequent breakdowns. The condition of the Library's special collections is currently deteriorating more rapidly than would be the case if a more reliable, higher specification system were installed.

Within the New Bodleian Library reading rooms, vulnerable material normally stored within the controlled conditions of the stack can experience sudden and damaging changes in humidity and temperature when called up for consultation. The environmental services plant therefore needs to be comprehensively replaced and extended throughout.

Furthermore a significant amount of the services plant equipment is located within stack areas itself, and many common services pass through stack areas. This presents a further risk of fire or flood, and does not meet with current standards.

5.2.3 Facilities and Security

The current state of security within the building is inadequate for the required level of control of potential theft or vandalism of the collections. Insufficient security measures exist both internally and externally.

In most cases this is based on the infrastructure of the original design, for example the control of circulation is difficult due to the layout of the building, and the layout of the historic reading rooms makes investigation very difficult too.

5.2.4 Summary

The New Bodleian refurbishment is necessary to provide a significant, comprehensive upgrading of Library infrastructure, creating a modern facility for the safe and secure storage of the Bodleian Special Collections. As such the University's licence from The National Archives has been extended temporarily, and if improvements are not made in a timely fashion the University will lose its right to hold some existing deposited manuscript collections the privilege of receiving future collections of manuscripts on behalf of the nation, and the grants to support them.

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

5.3 Translating the Objectives into the Building

The New Bodleian Library was built primarily as a depository for the ever-expanding requirements of the Bodleian Library. Though it includes some reading rooms and staff facilities and offices it was never envisaged as a facility that would be focussed on providing access for research. Accordingly the architecture of the building though of undoubted quality in terms of material detailing, massing and 1930s storage techniques, is very specific to its designed usage as a book store.

Spatially the key objectives of 'Safeguarding the collections', 'Modernising research facilities' and 'Promoting the collections for wider understanding' are all inter-related. An analysis of this mutually beneficial relationship in the Libraries' key objectives is outlined as follows:

5.3.1 Stack Quantum

The redeveloped New Bodleian building will store only Special Collections material, as the Library is in the process of changing its model of service delivery. More high use modern printed material will be made available in other buildings as direct access for users and low use printed materials will be stored in the Bodleian Book Storage Facility in Swindon.

By relocating the low-use material to the Book Storage Facility, the redeveloped New Bodleian building will be able to provide new and improved research and exhibition facilities, and improved storage conditions for Special Collections.

It must be noted that although an overall storage reduction is proposed, the spatial requirements of BS 5454 are more onerous than the storage conditions in the existing building. Therefore consideration of modern storage techniques, such as mobile racking, have been evaluated in order to economise on storage areas.

5.3.2 Special Collections

Currently the 'Special Collections' books are moved from the various Libraries to the various Reading Rooms, and this represents a possible risk in terms of books getting damaged whilst in transit. To further ensure the safeguarding of the 'Special Collections' reader access to these books is proposed to be contained within Reading Rooms and Research / Seminar spaces in the New Bodleian building itself, i.e. these books will never leave the building, so the risk of damage whilst in transit is reduced.

5.0 Existing Building Analysis

5.3.3 Book Movements

The streamlining of book movements to, from and within the New Bodleian, in order to minimise overall 'fetching' times, is a key factor in the safeguarding of the collection and Library operations. In order to safeguard the special collections from potential damage whilst in transit, the movement of 'special collections' books within the New Bodleian will be by trolley and lift only, and will no longer rely on the 1930s book conveyor system.

5.3.4 Research and Reading Rooms

The existing building currently accommodates several Reading Rooms of varying sizes located within the three floors of perimeter accommodation around the existing central stack, one Reading Room in the 1960s south extension on the roof, and no purpose built Research / Seminar spaces. These existing Reading Rooms are inadequate in terms of reader number requirements, facilities, security, ventilation and environmental conditions.

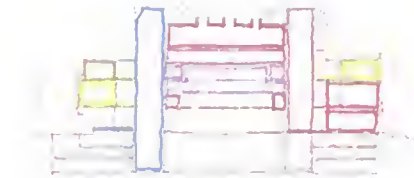
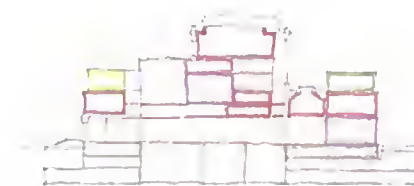
Scott's principal Reading Rooms are well sited on the north side of the building, however, there are a number of Reading Rooms which are less than ideally located in terms of natural light and solar gain. Furthermore, the disparate location of some of these existing Reading Rooms throughout the building represents a security risk as it is not feasible to monitor the movement of readers within the building effectively.

The cumulative implication of these factors, coupled with the fact the 'special collections' books will not leave the building, means that there is a requirement to increase the number and size of adequately sized Reading Rooms and Research / Seminar spaces. Hence the opportunity exists to create centralised areas for both Reading Room research and also specialist Seminar and Study research, thus improving security and at the same time modernising the libraries research facilities.

5.3.5 Conservation and Curatorial

The existing building accommodates some Conservation facilities and a number of Curatorial offices. The existing Conservation facilities are inadequate in terms of modern Conservation requirements and are distributed within several buildings; therefore both an upgrade and consolidation of working areas is proposed.

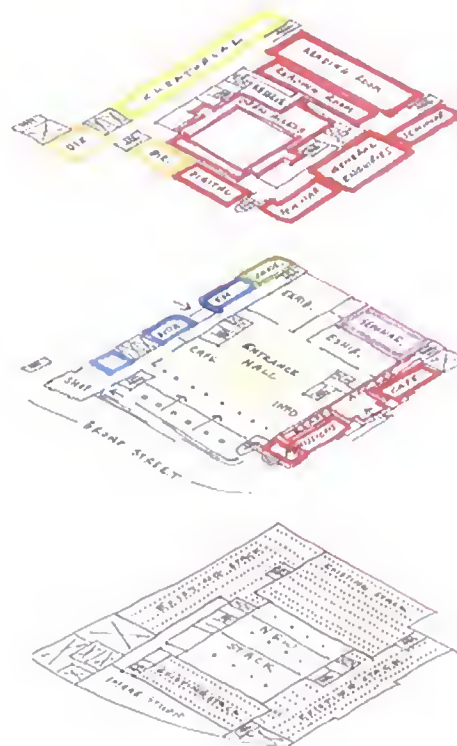
The Curatorial spaces are a product of the number of Curators and associated office space that serve the 'special collections'.



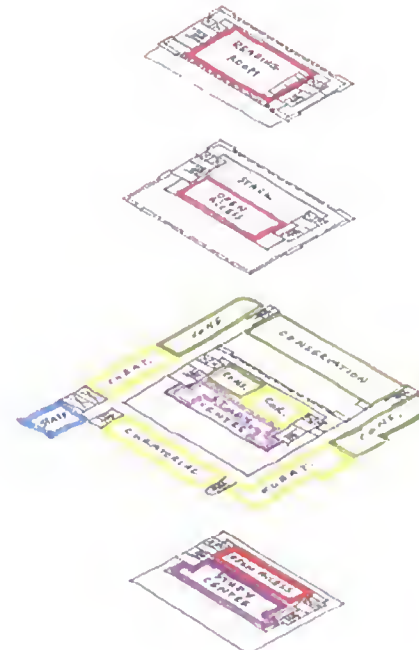
Sectional diagrams of the key components of the brief within the proposed redeveloped building.

5.0 Existing Building Analysis

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project



Minimum scale diagrams of the key components of the Brief within the proposed redeveloped building



5.3.6 Public Engagement

The only existing exhibition space within the Bodleian Library complex is in the Old Bodleian, however this is limited in terms of space and functionality. There is currently no public or exhibition space in the New Bodleian. The original exhibition room on the ground floor south wing of the New Bodleian has been used as a reading room for many years.

With the University's aspiration to 'promote the collections for wider understanding', the redevelopment and refurbishment of the New Bodleian represents the opportunity to convert some of the existing non-special collection stack space into new publicly accessible and exhibition space. By opening more of the building to the public, the aim is to enable a wider audience to appreciate the quality of the collection.

5.3.7 Surveys and Site Investigations

As with all refurbishment works to existing buildings, there will inevitably be discoveries of several 'unknowns' during the deconstruction / demolition phase which could not have been foreseen. Some of these may influence the design proposals.

Therefore, a series of Surveys and Site Investigations have been undertaken which will continue during detailed design, as and when Library areas become available. This will reduce the number of 'unknowns' as far as possible, and mitigate future risk.

5.3.8 Brief Development

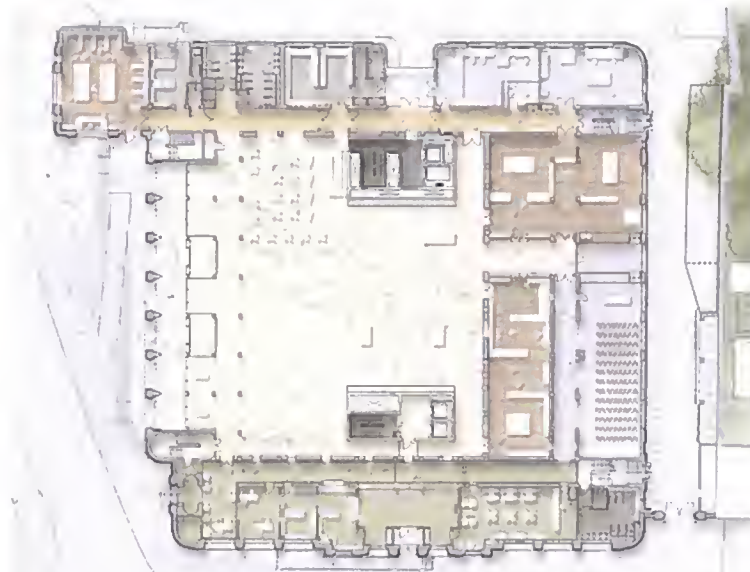
The Library's key objectives were originally outlined in a Client Brief. In summary, the Brief reduces the amount of overall stack, but increases the amount of Research space (inclusive of Reading Rooms and new Seminar and Study Spaces) and also adds new public spaces and exhibition spaces.

It is recognised that the New Bodleian is an existing building with very particular and specific constraints. In terms of a Library brief, the Brief is unique in that it amalgamates the requirements of an academic research library, interdisciplinary research and study centres, and public interaction and exhibition.

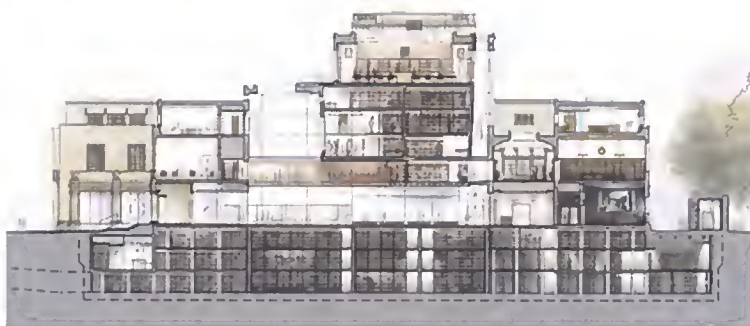
Therefore, in trying to mediate the existing building constraints with the Client Brief, a workable Design Brief emerged, from this the design has developed and forms the basis of the Planning and Listed Buildings Consent Application submission.

University of Oxford
New Bodleian Library Project

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Illustrative ground floor plan

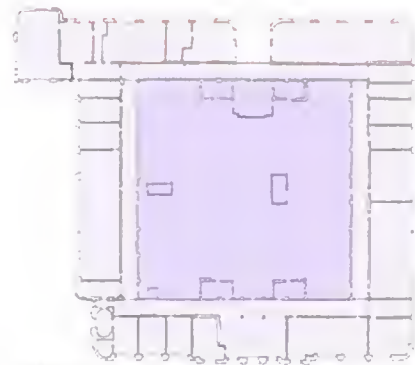


Illustrative sectional elevation

6.0 Description of Design Proposals

- 6.1 Design Concept
- 6.2 Broad Street Entrance
- 6.3 Ground Floor
- 6.4 Perimeter Accommodation
- 6.5 Central Upper Stack
- 6.6 Basement Book Stack Areas

6.1 Design Concept Summary



Existing First Floor

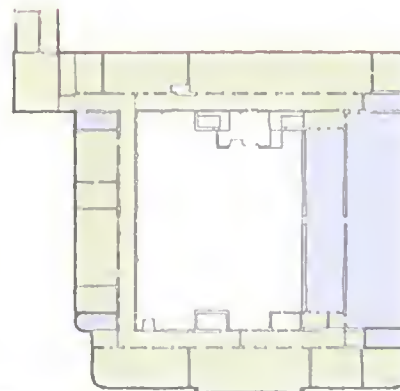


Existing Section

Existing Building Layout -

The existing building consists of 11 storeys of above and below ground closed access bookstack, surrounded by 3 storeys of above ground perimeter accommodation.

- Closed Access Bookstack (shown Purple)
- Perimeter Accommodation (shown Grey)



Existing First Floor



Existing Section

Existing Fabric Conservation -

The existing perimeter accommodation will be conserved and refurbished to provide improved facilities for readers and academic functions to support modern study and research practices.

- Heritage Areas identified as most significant (shown Blue)
- Perimeter Accommodation (shown Green)
- External Fabric (shown Dark Green)



Existing Ground Floor



Existing Section

Existing Structure Removed -

The existing 11 storeys of the central part of the book-stack will be removed down to the lowest basement level, in line with the above ground perimeter accommodation.

- Central Bookstack (shown Pink)
- Existing Floor & Wall Structure (shown Red)

6.1 Design Concept Summary

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

6.1 Design Concept Summary

The project will address the major problems with the building's infrastructure, modernising its facilities without compromising the historic character of the building.

In urban design terms the key architectural aims of the New Bodleian project are to relate the building more closely into its immediate context, and to create an improved clarity and logic to the perception of, and approach to, the building.

Internally the original form of Scott's building follows the typology of the Oxford quadrangle (albeit that the central 'quad' is fully occupied by books). Scott's original design has been reviewed carefully both from site inspections and from the records available. Our analysis leads us to conclude that Scott's 'quad' should be opened up to provide publicly accessible space and controlled daylight into the heart of the building, whilst maintaining the quadrangle character and form that is vital to the architectural legibility of the building.

It is therefore proposed that the existing 11 storeys of the 'central part of the book-stack' will be removed, and a new central basement stack, entrance hall and high level central stack will be constructed in its place.

The University's intention of opening up the building to promote the collections provides other opportunities for improvements to the eastern end of Broad Street, in particular the setting for the Clarendon Building and the Sheldonian Theatre at street level. On the south façade of the building on Broad Street it is proposed to remove the existing windows and panels between the pilasters to create a new entrance colonnade, and to remove the existing plinth and replace it with steps and an integrated ramp.

The opening up of the south façade will extend the sense of public realm into the new ground floor entrance hall, under what will appear to be a central 'floating' stack, a reinterpretation of Scott's original stack. From here scholars and visitors will be able to orientate themselves towards exhibitions or readings rooms. This will establish a new relationship between the New Bodleian and Broad Street.

The quantum of books in the building will be reduced to allow for new and improved research and exhibition facilities. The architecture of the building will be opened up, both conceptually and physically, allowing the purpose and function of the research library to be more transparent.

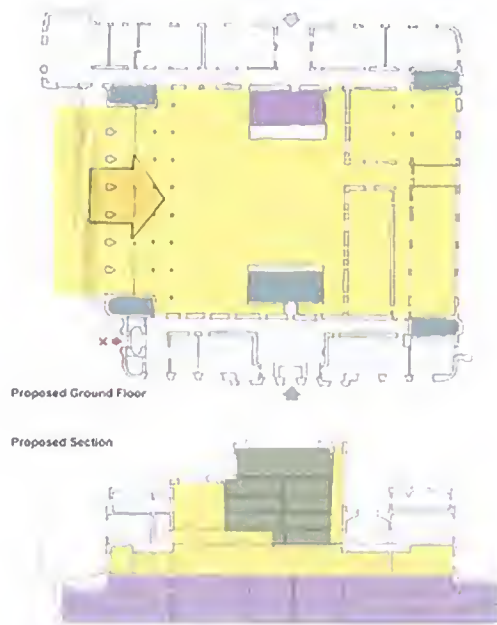
New east and west vertical access cores will support this central and upper stack, which will accommodate an open access book gallery, book-stacks, working areas for staff, a visiting scholars centre and reading room. Once the upper stack is constructed it

is intended that the original Scott south stack wall will be rebuilt in its current 'hidden' location to form the south side of a new reading room within the original upper stack tower. This reading room will afford wonderful southerly views of the city.

The perimeter accommodation on ground, first and second floors will be refurbished, conserved and upgraded throughout to modern library standards, paying special attention to conservation principles and the heritage features within these spaces to provide new exhibition galleries, refurbished and restored heritage reading rooms, additional academic seminar / research facilities and improved staff working areas for conservation and curatorial activities.

Significant modifications will be carried out to the basement book-stack areas to create subdivided and smaller compartments to provide the necessary fire protected and environmentally sound storage conditions. The new cores will be part of the rebuilt central basement book stack. The book stacks in the perimeter of the basement, which cannot be reconstructed as per the central stack, will have fire protection added to the existing columns and the shelving replaced in addition to new environmental services.

The existing building is in one of the most historically sensitive parts of the city, part of a series of buildings forming one of the most memorable urban 'set pieces' in the United Kingdom. The transformation of the New Bodleian into an exciting and dynamic resource for the university and the wider public will serve to integrate the building into the Bodleian complex and encourage wider access and engagement.



Proposed Scheme -

The scheme opens up the ground floor to public areas, creates a new 'floating' upper stack, and upgrades existing accommodation.

- Closed Access Bookstack (shown Purple)
- Perimeter Accommodation (shown Blue)
- Entrance Hall, Public and Exhibition Areas (shown Yellow)
- New Upper Stack Facilities (shown Green)



Early concept sketch

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

6.2 Broad Street Entrance

6.2.1 Steps and Inclined Approach

On the south side of the building on Broad Street, it is proposed that the existing plinth is removed, and replaced with a diagonal inclined approach which is integrated with stepped access. This will provide an uncluttered and fully inclusive access to the new ground floor colonnade and entrance doors.

The design is dictated by the location of the site boundary line, the slope of the existing pavement levels and the change in height between pavement and ground floor level.

At the east end it is proposed the steps curve to interface with the existing curved corner of the building, similar to the original curved steps around the building and across the street. The existing perimeter base moulding will be stopped at the point where the straight section of the base changes to a curve.

New natural stone floor finishes are proposed to these steps and the inclined approach – it is proposed that this stone is similar to the 'Brown Yorkshire Stone' – as noted on the original Scott drawings for all external horizontal stone surfaces.

It is also proposed that the historic building line of the demolished buildings on Broad Street and Parks Road is denoted in the external floor finishes, as a memory of the pre-1946 history of the site.

6.2.2 Forming the Colonnade and Entrance

It is proposed to remove the south facade windows and spandrel panels between existing pilasters down to ground floor level to create the new south colonnade.

A section of the new ground floor slab on the south side, which is currently internal, will become part of the south colonnade and semi-exposed, and will therefore require waterproofing and insulation.

It is proposed that existing floor up-stand beams are cut to the necessary level, when the spandrel panels are removed, and the remaining structure is adapted locally.

On the ground floor south wing, it is proposed that the sections of wall between structural columns in the existing corridor walls will be removed to create the transitional space of two rows of existing columns between the glazed entrance arcade and the central hall.

6.2 Broad Street Entrance

6.2.3 Columns and Glazed Screen

Once the existing windows and spandrel panels between pilasters are removed, it is proposed that the existing pilasters are modified to form a series of new columns which create the colonnade. The south front of the columns retain the existing Clipsham ashlar stone profile of the pilasters, and the rear north side of the columns will be adapted to ensure that the new columns are as slender as possible to create an open oblique view into the colonnade. Stone masonry will be required to the mouldings of the capitals and bases. A new recess detail on the two east and west sides of the column is proposed to create a satisfactory juncture with the base and capital moulding. These will be dressed in matching Clipsham stone to the back of the existing structure.

East and west internal elevations of the colonnade will be dressed in new Clipsham stone to match the existing.

A new glazed entrance screen with bronzed recess perimeter framing will be inserted on the inward side of the colonnade to form the external envelope wall. It is envisaged that this glazed screen will have a high level of transparency between inside and outside, which will allow activity in the ground floor entrance hall to be seen from the street.

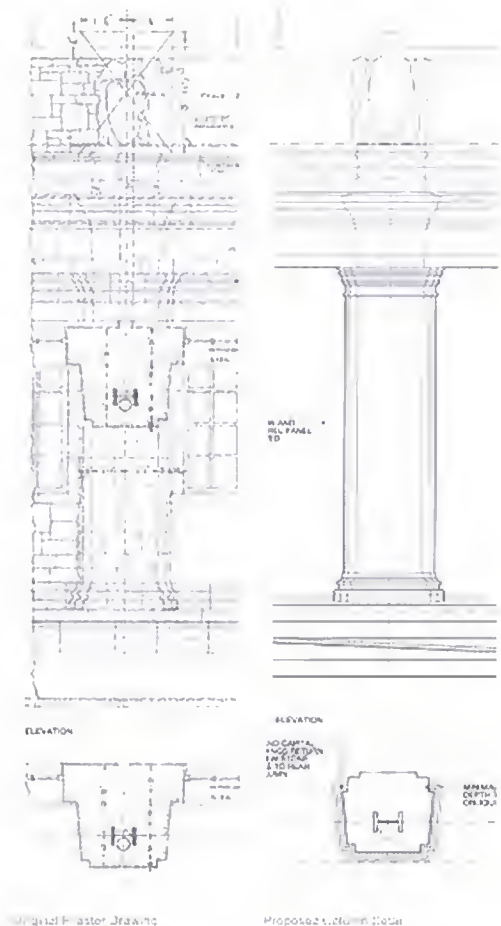
6.2.4 Security Gates

For security reasons it is proposed that a series of wrought iron bi-folding gates are installed so that the colonnade can be closed at night. The colonnade will be open for most of the day and evening, in accordance with library opening hours.

It is proposed that the security gates are low maintenance, top hung, and operate like concertina doors which can be retracted behind the columns during opening hours. Architecturally these gates relate to the materiality of the railings and gates around the Clarendon and Sheldonian, the module and proportion of the New Bodleian itself and other gates in the building – strong verticality with a dense base, a more open mid-section with a series of extended verticals to the top. In essence the 'look and feel' of these gates should be as if they had always been intended.

6.2.5 Lighting

As the colonnade is the first part of the building encountered by visitors, the lighting seeks to emphasise how the building should be entered and to give the architecture the correct prominence in the street scene. A controlled quantum of light will be allowed to flow out of the building to show the entrances, whilst uplighting to the columns and upper storeys show the building architecture to its best at night.

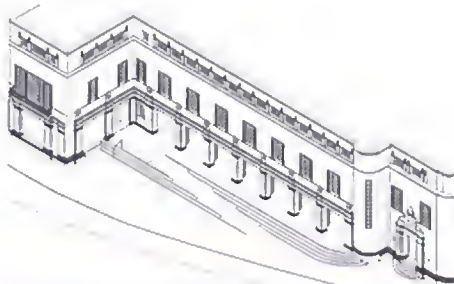


Proposed Plan Drawing

Proposed Column Detail

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

6.2 Broad Street Entrance



It is proposed to have concealed high-level lighting integrated with the downstand beams to create a base level of lighting within the space, whilst column mounted downlights will illuminate the spaces between the gates, thus reducing their visual impact. The columns will be highlighted by recessed uplights mounted in the paving at the column bases.

6.2.6 External Banners

It is proposed that discrete infrastructure will be built into the design, to facilitate the display of temporary banners to advertise the exhibitions happening within the Library. A combination of temporary banners, either hung from the façade or cantilevered from the external paving, in conjunction with manifestation on the glazed screens in the arcade are proposed. These displays will not be permanent fixtures, and will appear deliberately temporary in nature.

6.2.7 Works to South West Corner Annexe

It is intended to extend the solid / void opening up of the façade to the existing south-west corner annexe which will become the shop. The existing windows and spandrel panels are proposed to be removed. Stone masonry detailing will be required to the mouldings of the capitals and base to return to the line of the new glazing. The backs of the existing external pilasters are to be dressed internally in matching Clipsham stone to the back of the existing structure and full height recessed glazing inserted where the existing windows in the south-west corner annexe are currently located.

6.2.8 Wider Streetscape Issues

It should be noted that the proposals are independent of 'The Broad Street Plan', but sit alongside and work with it. The roadway and pavements around the New Bodleian are outside of the Librarians' influence, and under the control of Oxfordshire County Council. The County and City Council are stakeholders to the Broad Street Plan, and it is our understanding that the County are reviewing the crossroads at the south-east corner.



Proposed Main Entrance on South Facade of the Elevator

6.2.9 Justification for Alterations

Architectural Justification

The existing building and specifically the south façade have always struggled with a lack of identity. The heaviness, uniformity and obscured nature of the south façade and the barrier formed by the existing raised plinth do not contribute positively to the east end of Broad Street.

The removal of the existing plinth and opening up the building façade denotes the re-orientation of the buildings' new entrance, provides a spatial connection with the historical central Bodleian buildings, and gives an improved setting to the east end of Broad Street.

The transformation of the south façade will give meaning and purpose to this façade, and 'socialises' the building with Broad Street. The steps and ramp improve the public realm within this area in their own right, and also facilitate a widening of the available pavement, which has wider public realm benefits.

The original Broad Street entrance, or King George VI door as it has become known, though unused will still spatially draw people northwards through the axial route within the other Bodleian buildings to the point where one reaches the Clarendon steps, from where the view opens up and the new entrance of the New Bodleian will announce itself on the far side of the Broad.

In pure architectural terms the creation of the colonnade creates a much lighter and improved elevational proportion to this side of the building.

Cultural Justification

The opening up of the south façade and extending a managed public realm into the building is of key importance within the context of the relationship between the New Bodleian and Broad Street, and on a wider scale between the University and the City.

The building will be opened up, both conceptually and physically, allowing the purpose and function of the research library to be more transparent.

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

6.3 Ground Floor

6.3.1 Entrance Hall - Form and Layout

The main entrance will be through a new glazed arcade, the only significant intervention to the existing building facing the street at ground level. The new arcade increases the permeability of the building from Broad Street and enables the public realm to extend through the colonnade and into a new ground floor entrance hall, or 'court'.

The original form of the building follows the Oxford quadrangle typology - a central stack, or 'quad', occupied by books surrounded by a perimeter corridor, in turn surrounded by perimeter accommodation. It is proposed to open this 'quad' up to function as a central entrance hall, but to maintain its 'square within square' form, which is important to the legibility of the building.

The ground floor entrance hall space will be formed by the removal of the original central stack. Spatially the entrance hall will be defined on each side by the three storey walls of the east, west and south perimeter corridors, and the north wall and slot windows of the original upper-stack tower. New east and west concrete cores will rise up through the entrance hall to support a new central stack.

The west (staff/book moving) core will be constructed to abut up against the west perimeter wall, whilst the east (reader access) core is spaced off the east perimeter wall to create a continuous void between core wall and perimeter wall. This void is bridged by a series of fire resistant glazed link bridges which provide secure access from ground, first, and second floor perimeter accommodation into the east core.

The central stack is a three storey concrete structure with inclined walls, clad with an acoustic timber lining. The volume of the stack is positioned centrally within the hall, so as to create a continuous void between the stack and the perimeter walls, interrupted only by the east and west cores. On the north, west and east sides this is a tall narrow void, whilst on the south side this void is very deep. The column free clear span of the new central stack will create the perception of a 'floating stack'.

The central stack south wall windows and the roof-lights within the ceiling of the entrance hall are both expressed as a series of narrow glazed recesses, in a similar manner to that of the original Scott narrow windows of the upper stack tower. The roof lights will provide controlled and filtered daylight into the entrance hall.

On the south side of the entrance hall, above the ground floor, a single story gallery bridges over the deep void from the central stack to the south wing creating an elevated gallery of books - a 'quadrangle within a quadrangle', which echoes the galleries in the Selden and Aitken Ends of Duke Humfrey's Library. From the

6.3 Ground Floor

ground floor the visitor will be able to appreciate the workings of the academic research library. It is also proposed that a feature soffit, under the central stack and enclosed by the glazed book gallery, will depict typography, text, words and images from the Bodleian collections (as a possible artwork).

To the north of the entrance hall there is a tall, narrow, top-lit void between the central stack and the original north wall and slot windows. At first floor level two new glazed link bridges will span across this void to provide staff and reader access into the central stack and open access book gallery. The timber cladding of the north side of the central stack will be articulated by several punctured, glazed slots where staff and reader activity occurs within the stack.

Around the perimeter walls of this new central space, a number of high level openings are proposed which correspond with existing perimeter corridors on first and second floors. These perimeter openings are articulated as a series of slots and projecting bays of stone or glass which respond to their corridor location and their aspect into the central hall. Some of these openings are newly formed, whilst others incorporate the reuse of existing stack door openings.

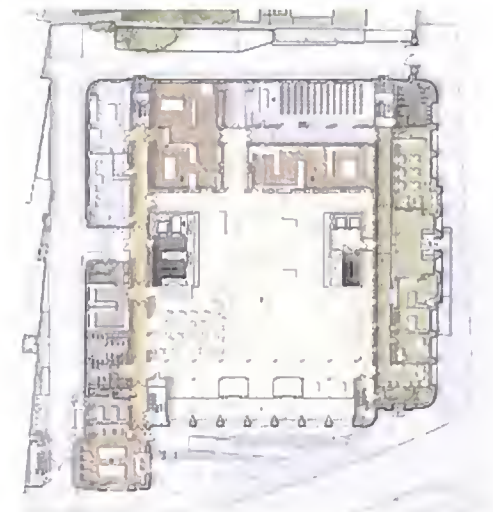
These articulated openings are contemporary interpretations of the 'oriel window' model, in some cases with an integrated reading seat located within both reader and staff circulation areas providing specifically orientated views into the central hall. One of the functions of these openings is to create a series of spaces to support ad-hoc social interaction within circulation routes of the library.

Lighting

Lighting to the link bridges and open access galleries will allow these spaces to be seen from the ground floor. Lighting within the open access link bridges will bounce light from the shelves to illuminate the bridges from within, so that the books are clearly visible, whereas people moving around them will become silhouettes against the volumes.

Around the perimeter wall lighting will illuminate the large open planes of the internal walls. This will reflect light back down onto the ground floor, while making the vertical surfaces attractive elements in their own right. The fixtures will be recessed into the opposite walls to reduce their visual impact when seen from below.

The rooflights over the entrance hall will be picked out by a hidden lighting detail that will emphasise these at night.



Proposed ground floor plan - illustrative

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Circulation | 2. Park Road Library entrance |
| 3. Entrance Hall | 4. Shop |
| 5. Exhibitions | 6. Service wing |
| 7. Seminars | |



Illustrative view of proposed central foyer and entrance hall

6.3 Ground Floor

6.3.2 North wing - Form and Layout

On existing Levels G and H (ground floor) the existing book stack structure extends northwards beyond the line of the upper stack north wall to the ground floor north corridor. This portion of the stack is directly under the first floor Reading Room 1 (formerly the original Catalogue Room). It is proposed to provide additional structure and strengthening under Reading Room 1, to remove this portion of the stack structure, to add a new concrete ground floor and to add a new wall in line with the north wall of the upper stack.

It is also proposed to remove several sections of wall between columns in the existing ground floor north corridor, and the partition walls which subdivide rooms within the north range of accommodation (existing rooms 125, 127, 128, 129 and 131).

The above alterations to the ground floor fabric create a suite of exhibition and seminar rooms directly accessible from the central entrance hall.

Exhibitions

An Exhibition Gallery is proposed in the west side of the north wing. The removal of the west portion of the north corridor creates a room with suitable proportions to accommodate a number of exhibition layouts.

The Bodleian Treasures Gallery will be located within the east side, within the linear space defined by the north corridor and the north wall of the central hall. The two exhibition rooms will include the following features:

- Floors - A timber floor finish with recessed power / data floor boxes.
- Ceilings - A ceiling height similar to that of the existing north corridor, which will be fully accessible and demountable with an integrated recessed lighting track.
- Air conditioning - These exhibition rooms will be air conditioned for temperature and humidity control to ensure BS 5454 compliance.
- Walls - The wall substrate to exhibition areas will be both new-build and existing, and will provide the necessary fire protection. On the exhibition side of these walls there will be a 'fit-out zone' which will include provision for power and data connection, carcass framing to fix graphic panels, or display cabinets.
- Doors - The height and width of door openings into the central hall will be maximised to enable manoeuvring of exhibition objects.

The Exhibition Preparation area will be located close to the two galleries in the north west corner of the ground floor.

In terms of security and fire protection, the exhibition rooms and preparation area will be their own individual fire compartments. They will have detection and alarm systems, a water mist fire suppression system, CCTV cameras and staffed Security invigilation. The temporary exhibition room and preparation area, both have external ground floor windows. These windows will require fire / security shutters built into the ceiling above the windows.

The two exhibition galleries are either side of an open route through from the central hall to the Blackwell's room and Seminar suite.

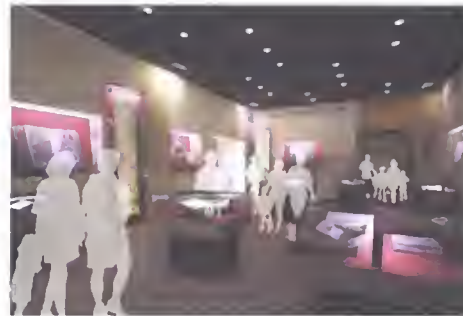
Seminar Suite

The Seminar suite will be located in the north east corner of the north wing (currently existing rooms 131, 132 and part 129). This location provides access from either the central hall or the east wing.

It is proposed that three sections of infill wall between columns are removed from the existing north corridor, and replaced with movable glazed partitions. The seminar suite itself will also have a movable solid partition wall to subdivide the space, and retractable bleacher seating.

These movable partitions retain the legibility of the north corridor, and provide the flexibility to treat the seminar suite as either a single auditorium space with an open corridor, or two group study spaces and corridor.

This ground floor seminar suite will have acoustic finishes to the ceiling bulkheads, partition walls and furniture.



Illustrative view of exhibition space

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

6.3.3 West wing - Form and Layout

The existing west wing is principally a service wing, accommodating (from south to north) a staff canteen, kitchen, staff entrance, staff toilets, facilities management, loading bay and book bindery.

It is proposed that the west wing remains principally a service wing, but the layout of the partition walls are re-arranged to address the revised functions of the building. It is proposed that the reconfigured west wing will provide (from south to north) a shop, staff entrance and locker room, public toilets, kitchen, loading bay, facilities management and an exhibition preparation area.

New openings within the west wall of the central hall will be formed by removing sections of infill wall between columns, which will provide connectivity between the central hall and the west wing, whilst retaining the legibility of the original perimeter corridor.

The original timber floor in the west corridor will be refurbished, and several new doors will be added to this corridor for fire and security reasons. It is also proposed to modify and increase the size of the original aluminium doors to provide access for large exhibition objects.

The proposed location for the Bodleian 'bibliography' shop is in the south west corner annexe. The shop will have a glazed frontage onto Broad Street, which initiates the redefined solid void relationship of the south façade. This corner will have an entrance off Broad Street for shop access, which is in the same location as Scott originally intended there to be a door.

The proposed café in the central hall and a staff / readers' café in the east wing, will both be served by a new kitchen in the west wing, adjacent to the loading bay but with its own independent access. For events in the central hall, the kitchen will act as a support space, and as a conduit for catering company access via the loading bay.

Security

The public and private functions that will take place within the refurbished New Bodleian Library imply that access arrangements need to be carefully considered to avoid overlaps which could compromise security. A suite of 'security access zones' has been developed, which range from public accessible areas through to the varying staff grade levels.

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6.3 Ground Floor



A stratified perspective section showing new publicly accessible areas and new upper reading room

6.3 Ground Floor

6.3.4 Justification for Demolitions and Alterations

Removal of the Existing Central Stack and Creating the Ground Floor Entrance Hall and New Stack

There are a number of compelling reasons which justify the removal of the existing central stack and creating the open ground floor entrance hall within the New Bodleian. The reasons fall into several categories, which are described below

Architectural and Functional Justifications

- The book-stack imposes severe spatial and environmental constraints, and a significant fire risk. Therefore, it is proposed that the 11 storeys of the existing central book stack are removed and replaced, to create improved spaces for both storing books, academic research and exhibitions – thus addressing the 'key objectives'
- In order to retain the plan diagram of 'square within square' and to work within the form of the original building it is necessary to remove the 'the whole of the central stack, rather than 'cut and carve' from the existing stack

If one deviates from this proposed strategy, then the Bodleian is left with (i) the existing constraints of the stack whether in part or whole, (ii) only minor mitigation of the fire risk is possible at the expense of book quantum, and (iii) no new research or exhibition facilities can be accommodated

- The original form of Scott's building follows the typology of the Oxford quadrangle, albeit that the central zone was fully occupied by books. Architecturally we have sought to open this space up, but to maintain its quadrangle character and form, as this is vital to the architectural legibility of the building as an organizational diagram
- Being central within a deep plan there is limited access to daylight for non-storage uses. The opening out of space at this level and above brings daylight into the building

The new Entrance Hall will serve a number of key functions which we consider outweigh their physical impact on the listed fabric.

- As an entrance foyer and a 'central hub' from where staff, scholars and the public access the building
- The entrance hall space will be available for events and for extended exhibitions, as well as for café and social use. Temporary enclosures could be erected when necessary to provide finer control of environment or light levels for exhibiting sensitive material
- With a multi-tier security strategy the ground floor space allows the activities relating to events, exhibitions and seminars to take place all within the relatively 'low' security level without penetrating reader or stack areas
- Promoting Collections - Detail about the content and function of the library will be provided by the use of the central space for exhibitions containing 'non light sensitive' material, whilst a suite of 'black box' exhibition rooms, where light can be totally controlled, are proposed off this central space for display of sensitive materials
- Flexibility - A key aspect of the ground floor and its publicly accessible spaces are that these should be flexible for varying types of scenarios at different times of the year. Management procedures will be in place to avoid prevent possible over crowding during peak summer

Typically the central hall provides access to exhibition suite, café shop, central space, readers' east wing and library seminars. However, the Bodleian would like the central hall space to also have the flexibility to accommodate major temporary exhibitions, auditorium use during the conference season, and sit down / standing events

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Cultural Justification

The new Entrance Hall also provides a new cultural identity and focus to the Library, by the following means

- Providing instant identity and recognition that this is a research library, through visual connections with the books in the gallery
- Broadening access to and interpretation of the collections, via the Exhibition and Seminar rooms
- Accommodating public events such as poetry readings and concerts, and promoting social and intellectual interaction.
- By being welcoming and deep in plan, it is intended to promote the feeling of accessibility
- Identity - From the ground floor the visitor will be able to appreciate the inner workings of an academic research library – scholars accessing reference books and staff distributing material from the central reserve

This new publicly accessible space is intended to highlight the cultural importance of the collection to wider society, in addition of course to academic users. The new configuration of the library provides an opportunity to create a forum for events, readings, exhibitions etc, thereby strengthening the relationship with the collections. Whilst exhibitions and seminar spaces are to the periphery, it is the object of the stack itself above the 'column-free' ground floor space that we envisage as the focus of the space

Perimeter Areas - Justification for Alterations

The removal of infill partitions and sections of corridor walls are needed for a number of reasons explained within the description of these areas and justify themselves functionally

It should be noted that only the functional corridors on the north, west and south sides of the building are to have significant alterations. The east corridor will only have minor alterations.

Architecturally the plan diagram and legibility of the original building remains intact, as the opening up of sections of the perimeter walls on ground floor almost creates its own 'cloister' around the ground floor entrance hall 'quad'

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

6.3.5 Parks Road Entrance Hall, East Corridor and Broad Street Vestibule

The original Parks Road entrance hall, east corridor, and Broad Street vestibule form one of the key heritage spaces within the building. It is proposed that this area will be refurbished and conserved to meet modern library access standards and functions for the Admissions and Security processes.

The ground floor east wing is distinguished by the high quality of finishes throughout. The Taynton stone block veneer is used throughout as a material for all vertical surfaces, such as walls, carved cornices, classical mouldings, friezes, door surrounds and counters.

Refurbishment and Modifications

To facilitate the proposed reuse of these spaces, a number of modifications to the existing spaces are required. These are described as follows:

- Special protection of existing stonework finishes
- Removal of the following non-original features - the glazed fire doors to north east stair 1, the security gates and screens in the entrance lobby, the two partitions adjacent to the Broad Street vestibule and King George VI door, the automatic sliding door
- Removal and salvage of the original timber door leaf to the proposed staff / reader cafe, to be replaced with a framed fixed glass panel.
- The existing 'lime plaster felt float finish' suspended ceiling will be removed as part of the asbestos and services strip out. New services and a new ceiling with rough plaster finish, sympathetic to the original finish, will be installed.
- It is proposed that the new ceiling will be at a slightly higher level to that of the existing to facilitate a consistent cove lighting detail running along the length of the corridor, creating a glow between the wall and ceiling.
- Forming a new opening in the existing wall (between existing rooms 104 and 106) opposite the Broad Street vestibule opening, for Admissions waiting and interviews.
- Removal and salvage of the original timber door leaf to the existing stack.

6.3 Ground Floor

- Form three new openings within the east corridor wall with associated new stone reveals and architraves. The two southern openings are proposed as fixed glazed panels only, the third northern opening will be a glazed door. The fixed panels and the doors will be of timber framed glass panels, with proportions similar to the original doors at the north and south ends of the corridor. The new openings will be emphasised by lighting the recesses to pick out the rhythm of the openings along the corridor.
- The new and existing openings within the east corridor wall, will have new deep stone reveals to the full depth of the wall, and new architraves on the west side of the wall.
- The widening the two doors (currently 660mm clear opening) either-side of the existing Parks Road door.
- Insertion of two new wooden chandelier pendant lighting in the Lobby (to match original light fittings).
- Insertion of two new fire shutters within the corridor either-side of the Entrance Lobby. The fire shutters will be discretely concealed within the new ceiling, and a vertical cut into the stone will accommodate a recessed track as a guide for the shutters.
- New glazed low level security screens and turnstiles will be installed.
- Removal of the non-original beige linoleum flooring. Reinstatement of a patterned rubber flooring as per the original (as per that on the second floor north corridor).
- New bespoke seating will be integrated into the refurbished Broad Street vestibule.



Illustrative view of proposed Parks Road lobby



Original photo of Parks Road lobby



Architectural Elevation of west wall to East Corridor

6.3 Ground Floor



Illustrative view of proposed East Corridor



Original photo of Broad Street Entrance/Vestibule

Conservation of Taynton Stone

The original stone veneer will require cleaning with a water based cleaning solution. Many areas of the stone veneer are chipped or cracked - most of these should be left unrepaired and only cleaned. For the major chips and cracks, repairs or replacement should be made, wherever possible, utilising salvaged stone to ensure the best possible match.

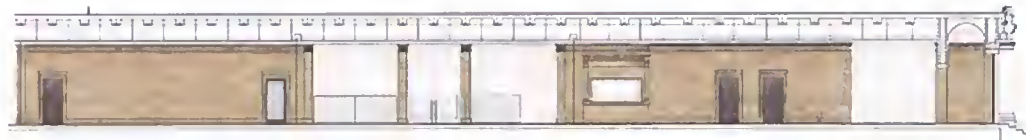
The original stone veneer should be checked for integrity, following a site investigation in a discreet area to confirm the existing method of fixing (believed to be plaster dabs, and wired fixings). The remaining stone should be checked for adhesion and fixing, and remedial work and repairs undertaken as required.

Salvaged Taynton stone from other areas of deconstruction within the scheme will be used for the necessary repairs and proposed modifications in the east corridor. Some details will require thicker stone than the existing stone tiles and therefore a similar stone to match the existing will be sourced. The original Taynton stone quarry is now closed.

6.3.6 Staff / Reader Café

The staff / reader café will be located in the north east rooms of the east wing.

The entrance door to this space will be on the south side, off of the existing Parks Road entrance lobby. Access to the staff / reader café will be on the non-secure side of the security turnstiles, which prevent the risk of food or drink being transported upstairs. It is therefore necessary to increase the width of the existing 660mm door for accessibility compliance.



Architectural Elevation of east wing to East corridor

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

6.3.7 Justification for Alterations

Architectural Justification

The existing east corridor suffers from a lack of daylight and is poorly lit by artificial lighting, all exacerbated by later alterations.

The modifications described above will improve the quality of space and light within this area, as the original layout will be reinstated and daylight will penetrate from original windows at each end of the corridor. Furthermore the proposed new openings within the east corridor will provide borrowed light from the central hall.

The three new openings will also allow a degree of connectivity between the public central space and the private reader access east wing. The new glazed door to the north is for readers who already have a reader's ticket. New readers who are required to go through the admissions process will access the east wing via the original doors in the south east corner. All doors will be access controlled.

Functional Justification

The proposed modifications enable the east wing to operate as per the following Admissions and Security process. The first time reader will gain access into the east corridor through the south-east door to the corner space adjacent to the vestibule and the Admissions waiting area and staffed admissions interview desks.

The regular reader will enter via the most northerly of the new openings.

Readers then proceed to deposit their bags / coats at the staffed cloakroom. The reader's card provides access control for the reader to pass through security turnstiles in the Parks Road lobby. From this point the reader proceeds via the new east core or the existing north-east stair up to the first floor.

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6.4 Perimeter Accommodation

6.4.1 First Floor East wing

General Enquiries

At the first floor east wing, the reader will arrive at the General Enquiries and Readers' Lounge area.

It is proposed that the enquiries area is formed by the removal of five sections of the existing infill partition wall of the east corridor. The sections of wall to be removed are on axis with the centre line of the projecting façade of the east wing where room 219, the former map reading room, is located.

Four columns currently hidden within the wall will be revealed, and the lower section of these columns will be clad with reclaimed Taynton stone up to dado level, to match the original and adjacent corridor walls.

There are currently three door openings into the stack on the west wall of the existing corridor. It is proposed that the central opening is widened to become the new entrance from the east core. Several additional new openings are proposed which will have specifically orientated views into the central hall, and will become places to read and to support ad-hoc social interaction.

The north-south circulation of the original corridor will be retained. The office partition at the south end of the corridor will be removed, and the original window will provide daylight into this corridor.

A new ceiling will be installed above the circulation route at a similar level to the existing ceiling. The general enquiries open space has a soffit higher than that of the corridor, and it is proposed that acoustic ceiling panels will be inset between the existing beams.

The solid partition walls which currently divide room 219 from rooms 218 and 222 will be removed and replaced with glazed partitions which align with the projecting façade of the east wing. These denote the boundary between the open plan enquiries space, and Seminar / meeting rooms.

Seminar Suites

Two new Seminar rooms will be accessed from either end of the open corridor; it will be necessary to widen existing door openings into these rooms. The positions of the cross wall partitions will be amended to create two rooms of a size to accommodate seminars for circa 18-25 people.

6.4 Perimeter Accommodation

Seminar rooms will have new built-in perimeter furniture, the air conditioning to these seminar rooms will be incorporated into this fixed furniture. Acoustic ceiling panels will be inset between existing beams to retain the continuity of the east wing soffit.

Two new smaller meeting rooms will also be accessible directly off the general enquiries space. Either side of the enquiries area, the glazed partitions will be double glazed panels to ensure acoustic control between spaces, whilst retaining a visual connection with the enquiries foyer area.

6.4.2 Justification for Alterations

Architectural Justification

The modifications described will create an architecturally coherent relationship and spatial hierarchy between the circulation route and the open space off it which will become the general enquiries area. This directly corresponds with the original perimeter corridor and its axial relationship with room 219, therefore the architectural legibility will remain intact.

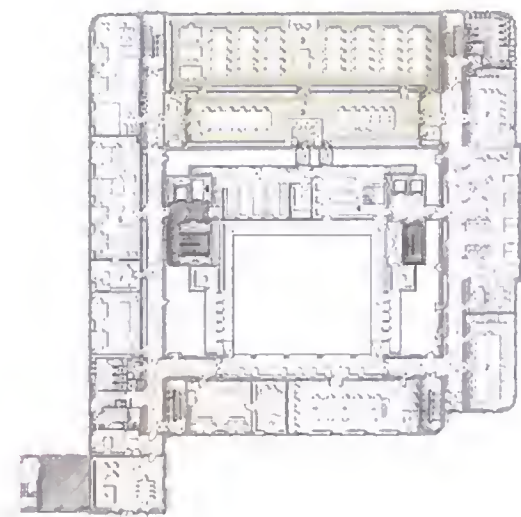
Room 219 no longer serves its original function as the map reading room. This room is currently used as a project room for the digitisation programme of the John Johnson Collection.

Functional Justification

The proposed alterations will form an open and legible space for readers, and provide an enquiries area which will be (i) the first point of call for an academic query, (ii) an information gathering point prior to consulting the collections, (iii) a gathering space prior to attending a Seminar or meeting, and (iv) for less intensive work than that carried out in a reading room.

The enquiries desk is proposed on the north side of the open space, so as to be closer to the north east Stair 1 and visible from the east core entrance. Within the general enquiries there will be tables for meetings, hot-desks, OPAC terminals, soft seating, reference shelves, break-out and meeting areas, lockers for short-term storage, photocopy / printing facilities, and an induction area.

The first floor Seminar suites will enable the Library to improve its research facilities. The Seminar rooms will have the infrastructure to support display / consultation of special collections material. These rooms could also be used for 'show and tell' of special collections material with various groups as necessary. The two small meeting rooms will be accessed from the southern end of the foyer. These will be used for ad-hoc meetings with and between readers.



First Floor Plan - Illustrative

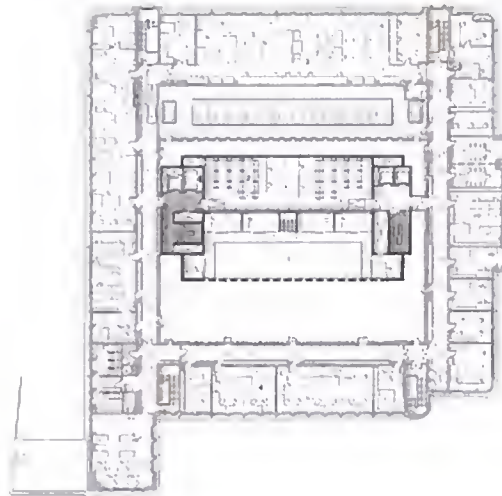
- 1. General Enquiries
- 2. Seminars
- 3. Reading Rooms
- 4. Open Access Gallery
- 5. Curatorial Offices



Illustrative view of proposed General Enquiries Area

University of Oxford New Bodleian Library Project

6.4 Perimeter Accommodation



Second Floor, Plan - illustrative

- 1. Study Centre
- 2. Staff Work Area
- 3. Conservation Workshops
- 4. Curatorial Offices

6.4.3 First Floor South wing

Digital Media Centre

In the south range of the first floor it is proposed that the partition wall between rooms 202 and 203 is removed and this will become the Digital Media Centre

This room will be air conditioned, and it is possible to conceal the service units within the adjacent corridor ceiling so that only a series of grilles within the apertures of the existing fan-light windows will be visible. It is proposed that solar control film will be installed onto the existing windows to control solar gain, samples of the film will be reviewed to ensure this does not impact on the appearance of the glass on Broad Street. Blinds will be installed to control glare.

Rooms 205 and 206

Rooms 205 and 206 are the most originally complete and intact 'perimeter office rooms' within the building. The original cork floor tiles are still intact, and it is proposed these will be repaired and / or replaced with matching cork tiles to suit.

The original four cut glass pendant light fixtures will be refurbished and reinstalled. The treatment of the services upgrade and plastered walls and soffits, should be as per the areas described above.

6.4.4 First Floor West wing

Bodley's Librarian's office will occupy the existing staff common room which will include modifications to partitions, services upgrade and repairs to the existing balcony. The works to the Curatorial office accommodation involve redistributing partition walls and services upgrade. Several new 'oriel window' openings will be formed within the west corridor wall, similar to those described in the entrance hall and first floor east wing. A new suite of staff toilets will be located in the south west corner.

6.4.5 Second Floor Perimeter Accommodation

The second floor will primarily be upgraded staff offices and workshops for the Curatorial department and Conservation and Collections Care department.

North half - Conservation will occupy the northern half of the second floor, primarily so they can benefit from the north light. The existing floor level of the north wing is higher than the floor level of the rest of the second floor. It is our understanding that the reason for this change in level is to accommodate a taller ceiling height in the reading room below, and the slightly greater span of this floor. For these reasons, and following analysis of the original drawings and site investigations, we believe that the internal north corridor wall is non-structural.

On this second floor north wing, it is proposed to remove the north wall of the existing corridor so that this wing can become open plan conservation workshops to suit modern conservator techniques and flexible work flow patterns.

As this is a workshop it is proposed that new non-slip linoleum is laid onto the floor. However, the existing corridor floor in this area has the only remaining section of original patterned linoleum. It is proposed to retain and repair this original linoleum flooring, and integrate it within the new non-slip linoleum in the workshops. However, further technical studies are required during detailed design to prove this is technically possible.

The existing blocked up roof-lights in this area will be reinstated and refurbished, and several new roof-lights will be formed within this workshop. In general the services upgrades will be as per that described in section 8.0, however, some of the equipment in these workshops, such as fume cupboards, will require a higher level of servicing and coordination.

South half - The south side of the second floor involves minor redistributing of partition walls and services upgrade. Several new 'oriel window' openings will be formed within the south, west and east corridor walls. A new suite of staff toilets will be located in the south west corner above the ground floor public toilets. A new staff common room will occupy the south west corner annexe room.

A mixture of Curatorial office accommodation including cellular offices for section heads, open plan offices for book processing and project rooms for manuscript processing are distributed among the second floor south wing and corresponding south halves of the west and east wings of perimeter accommodation. Both Curatorial and Conservation share secure stack space in the central stack.

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6.4.6 First Floor Reading Room 1 (former PPE Catalogue Room)

Form and Layout

Originally the reader entered the former PPE Commonwealth Reading Room (Reading Room 2) via the east bronze screen entrance in the former Catalogue Room (proposed Reading Room 1), consulted the reference catalogues, requested their books, and then went through to the PPE Reading Room (RR2) where the books they requested would be delivered to them. It is proposed that this original Scott-designed entrance sequence is reinstated, and access to both Reading Rooms 1 and 2 will be through the bronze screen at the east end of Reading Room 1.

At both ends of this room the reinstatement of these screens will include the removal of the non-original partitions, the refurbishment of the Tayton stone square columns, carved cornice and perimeter frieze, and the refurbishment of the ornate bronze screens.

Glazed screens and doors will be installed to form new lobbies at either end of this room, in line with the adjacent corridors. At the east end the glazed screen will enclose an invigilated security lobby which will also act as an acoustic buffer from the general enquiries area. At the west end of Reading Room 1, the non original partition wall will be removed and a new glazed screen will be added west of the stone column and bronze screen to form a new Consultation room.

The original roof-light (which has subsequently been blocked off, presumably because of leakages) is composed of an upper and lower double skin of glass. These original roof-lights will be opened up. The upper section of the existing roof-light will be newly constructed to create the necessary waterproof upstand detail, with a glass specification which will provide an even and natural diffused daylight into the room. It is proposed that the metal framing to the lower section of roof-light is refurbished, but that the central section is left open.

It is proposed that the central door into the stack on the south side of Reading Room 1 will be widened to match the width of the existing opening between Reading Rooms 1 and 2, providing a more generous access route for staff and book trolley movement through to the new Reserve area in the new central stack. This widened door will be surrounded by a new central Reserve desk in Reading Room 1. It is also proposed that a new opening, to the east of the central widened opening, will be formed in the south wall of Reading Room 1 to provide access for readers through to the 'open access book gallery' beyond. It should be noted that an analysis of original Scott drawings indicate that it was Scott's

6.4 Perimeter Accommodation

original design intent to have two doors within the south wall of the catalogue room, similar to these proposals, but this is not what was actually constructed.

It is proposed that two new openings, towards the east and west ends, will be formed within the north wall of Reading Room 1, to link reading rooms 1 and 2 together.

Intrusive surveys will be required to assess the extent of asbestos removal, and this will imply the removal of the existing chamfered ceiling bulkhead and that a replacement ceiling to match will be reinstated. The new floor finish will be rubber or linoleum, sympathetic to the original patterned rubber flooring.

The existing perimeter book cases in this room are not original. The original east-west linear organisation of the former Catalogue Room will be reinstated within Reading Room 1 by the use of the new furniture, new perimeter shelving with a similar profile to the original shelving, a new Reserve desk, and the reinstatement of the roof-lights.

New reading table furniture will be arranged on the east-west axis. Power, data and task lighting to the reading tables will be fed through the floor (space below will become exhibitions) to fixed 'built-in' reading table positions and/or floor boxes.



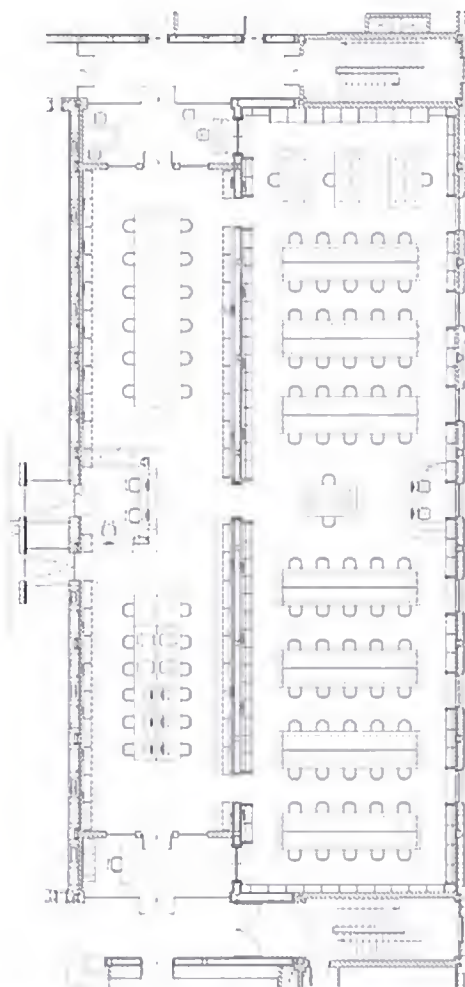
The existing PPE Commonwealth Reading Room



Catalogue Room original photograph



Artistic view of proposed Reading Room 1



Proposed Reading Rooms 1 and 2 - plan

6.4 Perimeter Accommodation

6.4.7 First Floor Reading Room 2 (former PPE Commonwealth Reading Room)

Form and Layout

The main features of Reading Room 2 remain intact. It is proposed to conserve the heritage features within this room, and to refurbish and improve facilities to modern library standards of access environment and security.

The primary original features of this room are the inlaid wood ceiling, stylised wood chandeliers, the large north facing aluminium windows, the perimeter sapele mahogany book shelves, the timber clock and reading tables - all of which will remain intact and be refurbished.

There are a number of modifications which have taken place within Reading Room 2 since its completion in the 1940s. These are as follows: Double doors have been added in the west end where book cases were originally located; The south east door is used as the main entrance to the room where, it was originally the alternative means of access / egress. The windows have had extractor fans inset within them; The linoleum floor finish is not original. Cantilevered lighting has been added to the perimeter shelving to illuminate the book spines. Two of the four original timber chandeliers are missing. The vacuum tube system integrated to the east wall behind the issue desk is not operational. The issue desk has been modified and increased in size. The reading tables have had the vertical solid panels removed between uprights, and power and data has been incorporated.

Conservation Works

It is proposed to re-block up the opening to the west end of this room, where a door directly into the west corridor has been added, and install new perimeter shelving to match existing shelving.

The existing doors at the far ends of Reading Room 2 will be closed and will act as alternative means of escape doors.

It is proposed to refurbish the existing and retrieved wooden chandeliers, and to install two new bespoke wooden fittings to match at the opposite end of the room. Around the perimeter of the room it is proposed to conceal uplighters on top of the shelves to wash the walls and timber ceiling with light. Down lighting will also be provided to illuminate the book spines on the shelves.

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The proposed service strategy is similar to the original. Along the north wall there is an existing niche underneath each window. It is proposed that new services, providing ventilation, heating and cooling are installed within these recesses. The pipework and fresh air ducts to these units will feed from the floor below. A slight gap between shelving and wall will provide a return air duct run.

Floors	Rubber flooring
Walls	Repaired plaster with painted finish
	Refurbished aluminium windows
	Sapele mahogany bookcases
Ceilings	Refurbished timber ceiling.

Justification for Alterations

Readers in either Reading Room 1 or 2 will pre-order their special collections material and retrieve this material from the Reserve counter in Reading Room 1. The Reserve counter is connected to the 'central reserve area' in the new central stack, where books awaiting distribution are fully secure. Both of these book management processes will improve the security of the special collections.

Therefore the existing central opening between Reading Room 1 and 2 will be used by Reading Room 2 readers collecting their material, as well as readers gaining access to Reading Room 2 from Reading Room 1. In order to prevent this route becoming disruptive to those readers either side of the opening, it is proposed to form two new openings at each end of the room in this wall. The size of these openings will coordinate with the width of the existing perimeter bookshelves, and will therefore also imply the removal of two of the perimeter shelf modules. This modification will also increase the permeability between Reading Room 1 and 2 and improve accessibility.

To further improve the security procedures in both Reading Rooms 1 and 2, it is proposed that all reader seats and tables will be numbered, and those readers consulting the most rare special collections shall be allocated at those seats closest to either the Reserve desk in room 1 or the Invigilation desk in room 2. Both Reading Rooms will have full CCTV coverage throughout.

Please refer to section 9.0 for a description of the proposed modifications to the reading room furniture.











